

Appl. No. : **10/506,361**
Filed : **May 16, 2005**

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant hereby submits Formal Figures 1 and 2 on Replacement Sheets 1 and 2, which follow in the Appendix. No new matter has been added.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-9 stand rejected. By this paper, Claims 1-3, 6, and 7 have been amended. Applicant is providing Formal Figures on Replacement Sheets 1 and 2. No new matter has been added. Thus, Claims 1-9 are presented for consideration and further examination in view of the amendments and following remarks.

Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested Applicant to furnish a drawing under 37 C.F.R. 1.81(c). Applicant has submitted formal figures herewith for approval by the Examiner as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d). Applicant notes that the in-formal figures were submitted with the original filing of the PCT application on March 3, 2003. No new matter is being added by the submission of the formal figures.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because of clerical errors in the specification. By this amendment, Applicant has corrected these errors. Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the specification has been overcome.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the “especially” recitation in Claim 1 renders that claim unclear. The Examiner also asserts that the phrase “low amount of lateral fitting play” in Claim 3 and the term “spring-type” in Claim 7 render those claims indefinite. Claims 1, 3, and 7 have been amended to delete the above-mentioned terms. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of Claims 1-9 for indefiniteness be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 under Krannak

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,070,013 (Krannak). Applicant respectfully submits

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that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2131.

In regard to Claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Krannak discloses a connection coupling having “a guide sleeve (28) with longitudinal grooves (54)... arranged between [a] sliding sleeve [(70)] and... collet chucks [(56)] in which the collet chucks are guided.” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Krannak discloses a coupler having a body (28) with grooves (54) on its outer surface (Column 2, lines 44-47). At a distal end of the coupler, the body (28) is surrounded by jaws (56) which engage with the grooves (54) (Column 2, lines 47-50). The jaws (56) are closely surrounded by a sleeve (70), with no guide sleeve disposed between the jaws (56) and the sleeve (70) (Column 3, lines 7-11). Rather, the reciprocatory sliding movement of the sleeve (70) is facilitated by a ring (72) disposed between the body (28) and the sleeve (70) at a proximal end of the coupler, away from the jaws (56) (See Column 3, lines 7-11). Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Krannak fails to disclose “a guide sleeve... arranged *between* [a] sliding sleeve and... collet chucks in which the collet chucks are guided,” as recited in Claim 1. The applied prior art of record does not cure this deficiency in the applied Krannak reference. Accordingly, because Krannak does not disclose each and every element of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of independent Claim 1 has been overcome.

Claims 2-9 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and, thus, are patentable for at least the same reasons that the claim from which they depend is patentable over the applied art. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

Any remarks referring to only a portion of a claim should not be understood to base patentability on solely that portion; rather, patentability must rest on each claim taken as a whole. Applicant respectfully traverses each of the Examiner’s rejections and each of the Examiner’s assertions regarding what the prior art discloses or teaches, even if not expressly discussed herein. Although changes to the claims have been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or

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should be implied thereby; such amendments are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application and are without prejudice to the presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims relating to the same or similar subject matter.

Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are not made for patentability purposes, and it is believed that the claims would satisfy the statutory requirements for patentability without the entry of such amendments. Rather, these amendments have only been made to increase claim readability, to improve grammar, and to reduce the time and effort required of those in the art to clearly understand the scope of the claim language.

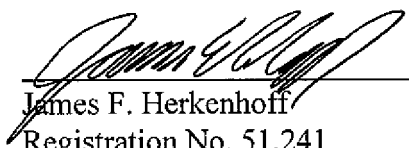
The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the noted rejections and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain of if an issue requires clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve any such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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